

Atty. Docket No. 569.013

REMARKS

Please note the fact that March 12, 2006, fell on a Sunday ensures that this paper is timely filed as of today, Monday, March 13, 2006 (the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday).

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On March 6, 2006, Applicants' counsel conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner in which the applied references and the pending claims were discussed. No agreement, however, was reached with respect to the claims. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-37 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Applicant intends no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Claim 27 was objected to because of an informality due to grammatical incorrectness. The claim has been amended to address the issue. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-24 and 26-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative elements. The

Atty. Docket No. 569.013

appropriate claims have been amended such that antecedent issues have been addressed and fixed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuban et al. (hereinafter "Kuban") in view of Crawford, Jr. (hereinafter "Crawford"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The present invention broadly contemplates a method whereby hospital room information is visually displayed, thereby aiding hospital staff in comprehending the hospital bed information. (Page 4, lines 1-3) In accordance with at least one presently preferred embodiment, the present invention utilizes the capabilities of a computer to graphically display selected information in a manner which conveys the information to hospital staff in a form which aids in comprehension of the information. (Page 3, lines 11-14) Specifically, the information is preferably conveyed for multiple patient units through the use of matrix type format. A cell is used to represent each room in patient units being displayed. (Page 3, lines 14-16) Components of the cell indicate key considerations for every bed control or admitting department. Additional information may also be displayed by clicking a component of a cell. (Page 3, lines 16-18)

As presently best understood, Kuban appears to be directed to a method and apparatus for room status, for timekeeping and for wakeup communication. (Column 1, lines 25-26) Status information appears to be sent to a "system manager location" at which room status information "can be tabulated and displayed for all the rooms in the hotel." (Column 4, lines 30-36) This information is presented via a display screen in

Atty. Docket No. 569.013

which data is inputted using a keypad with predetermined key configurations. (Column 11, lines 1-26) Kuban

Claim 1 has been rewritten to recite, *inter alia*, an arrangement for producing a cell for being viewed on said display, said cell conveying information regarding a room, wherein said information is conveyed using pre-set and user-defined attributes that comprise pre-set and user-defined attribute values **such that the user-defined attributes and values may consist of attributes and values that may or may not have previously been used with the apparatus.** (emphasis added) Similar language appears in all of the independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that Kuban clearly falls short of present invention (as defined by the independent claims) in that, *inter alia*, there is no teaching or suggestion in Kuban to convey room information using both pre-set and user-defined attributes that comprise attribute values that can be pre-set and user-defined such that the user-defined attributes and values may consist of attributes and values that may or may not have been previously used with the apparatus.

As best understood, Crawford appears to be directed towards a centralized system that monitors six vital signs for each bed/patient as well as room information. Crawford appears to employ a central server with "dumb" monitors to reduce the cost of the system. (Column 7, lines 40-68) However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Crawford to convey room information using both pre-set and user-defined attributes that comprise pre-set and user-defined attribute values such that the user-defined attributes and values may consist of attributes and values that may or may not have been previously used with the

Atty. Docket No. 569.013

apparatus. Thus, Crawford does not overcome the deficiencies of Cuban, nor would the combination of Crawford and Cuban realize the instant invention.

A 35 USC 103(a) rejection requires that the combined cited references provide both the motivation to combine the references and an expectation of success. Not only is there no motivation to combine the references, no expectation of success, but actually combining the references would not produce the claimed invention. Thus, the claimed invention is patentable over the combined references and the state of the art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 13, and 25, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-12, 15-24, and 26-36 are also presently allowable.

The "prior art of record" has been reviewed. Applicant acknowledges that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicant will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

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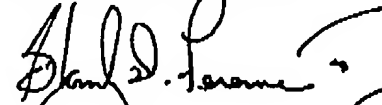
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Atty. Docket No. 569.013

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-37, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer Number 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
409 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicant